

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4181

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4937

NODIS

PLEASE PASS JUSTICE FOR TYLER

PLEASE PASS FBI FOR WANNALL

STATE FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINS, SNAR, YO, US

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAVS PROPOSE SECURITY COOPERATION

1. GOY SUDDENLY GRANTED MY LONG-STANDING REQUEST FOR CALL ON FEDERAL SECRETARY FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS FRANJO HERLJEVIC SEPT 16. HE PROPOSED DIRECT LIAISON WITH JUSTICE DEPT(FBI) REGARDING COOPERATION IN COMBATTING TERRORISM. TO MY WARNING THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE RECIPROCAL AND THAT IT MIGHT INVOLVE SUBJECTS AND GROUPS POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR YUGOSLAVS (SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED MIDDLE EAST AND EVENTS IN MADRID), HERLJEVIC SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND COULD ACCEPT THIS PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALITY. I RESPONDED THAT I WOULD RAISE THIS MATTER WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON AND BE BACK TO HIM.

2. I ASKED HERLJEVIC ABOUT RUMORS OF INTERIOR MINISTRY COOPERATION WITH SOVIET COUNTERPARTS. HERLJEVIC RESPONDED SUCH EXCHANGES WERE LIMITED TO PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE IN THE AREA OF CRIMES (THE SOVIETS ARE NOT IN INTERPOL SO THEY DEAL BILATERALLY
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ON MATTERS WHICH WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE DEALT

WITH VIA INTERPOL). FURTHER, THEY DISCUSS YUGOSLAVS WHO VIOLATE SOVIET LAWS AND VICE VERSA. HERLJEVIC INSISTED THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THEIR TOTAL RELATIONS AND DO NOT REPRESENT ANYTHING NEW.

3. COMMENT: SINCE MY CONVERSATIONS WITH WANNALL IN WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT, I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YUGOSLAVS TO COME TO US AT HERLJEVIC LEVEL. I BELIEVE BOTH POLITICAL AND INTELLIGENCE DIVIDENDS SUCH COOPERATION COULD BE SUBSTANTIAL. THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS ABROAD. CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE DEGREE OF PERSONAL FEAR ON PART OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TYPES WHO TRAVEL TO US. MRS. MINIC, FOREIGN SECRETARY'S WIFE, TOLD ME AT DINNER SOME WEEKS AGO THAT HE WAS NERVOUS AS HELL ABOUT TRIP TO UN. MORE-OVER, DESPITE MY VIGOROUS PROTESTATIONS OTHERWISE GOY SUSPECTS FBI NOT TRYING AS HARD AS POSSIBLE TO CATCH THOSE ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE AGAINST YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS. ESTABLISHMENT LIAISON EVEN WITH MINIMAL CONTENT WOULD HAVE ENORMOUS IMPACT. IF MUTUALITY NOT RESPECTED CAN BE DROPPED. FINALLY, WE SEE SAME KINDS OF BENEFITS IN CONTACTS WITH POLICE-SECURITY FORCES HERE THAT WE HOPE OBTAIN FROM NEW COOPERATION IN MILITARY FIELD.

4. AS BEGINNING I RECOMMEND JUSTICE (DEA SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS FBI SINCE DRUG COOPERATION STARTED) INVITE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION AT WORKING LEVEL TO WASHINGTON FOR PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AREAS OF POTENTIAL COOPERATIONS.
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